IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-33 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) For use in connection with a remote method invocation system, a stub code retrieval and loading subsystem for controlling the retrieval and loading of stub code for a stub [for] of a remote method into an execution environment to facilitate invocation of the remote method by a program executing in said execution environment, the stub code retrieval subsystem comprising:

A. a stub code retriever configured to initiate a retrieval of said stub code from a server associated with processing of said remote method, said stub code used to facilitate remote invocation of said remote method; and

B. a stub code loader configured to, when said stub code is received by said stub code retriever, loading said stub code into said execution environment, thereby to make the stub code available for use in said remote invocation of said remote method.

2. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 1 further including a remote method reference detector configured to detect whether a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment, the stub code retriever being further configured to initiate retrieval of said stub code when the remote method

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reference detector detects that a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment.

3. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 1 further including a remote method invocation control configured to control invocation of said remote method, said stub code retriever being further configured to initiate retrieval of said stub code when the remote method is invoked.

4. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 1, the remote method invocation system further including the server, the server being configured to process said remote method in response to a processing request therefor, the server further being configured to provide said stub code in response to a retrieval request from said stub code retriever.

5. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 4 in which server is configured to provide a separate address space for processing said remote method from an address space provided by said execution environment.

6. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 5 in which the address space provided by said server and the address space provided by said execution environment are provided by separate computers.

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7. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 4, further comprising a remote server identifier configured to provide a server identification for identifying said server.

8. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 7 further including a remote method reference detector configured to detect whether a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment, the remote method reference including a remote method server identifier configured to use the remote method server identifier as the server identification.

9. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 7 further including a remote method invocation control configured to provide a remote method invocation identification for controlling invocation of said remote method, the remote method invocation providing a remote method server identifier, the remote server identifier using the remote method server identifier as the server identification.

10. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 7, the remote method invocation system further including a nameserver configured to provide a said server identification, said remote server identifier initiating communication with said nameserver to obtain the server identification for said remote method.

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11. (Twice Amended) For use in connection with a remote method invocation method, a stub code retrieval and loading method for facilitating the retrieval and loading of stub code for a stub [for] of a remote method into an execution environment to facilitate invocation of the remote method by a program executing in said execution environment, the stub code retrieval method comprising the steps of:

A. [a stub retrieval step of] initiating a retrieval of said stub code from a server associated with processing of said remote method, said stub code used to facilitate remote invocation of said remote method; and

B. [a stub loading step of,] when said stub code is received, loading said stub code into said execution environment, thereby to make the stub code available for use in said remote invocation of said remote method.

12. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 11 further including the step of [a remote method reference detection step for] detecting whether a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment, and wherein the initiating step includes [the stub retrieval step including] the step of initiating retrieval of said stub code when a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment.

13. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 11 further including the step of [a remote method invocation control step for] controlling invocation of

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said remote method, and wherein the initiating step includes [said stub retrieval step including] the step of initiating retrieval of said stub code when the remote method is invoked.

14. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 11, the stub code retrieval and loading method [remote method invocation system] further including the steps of enabling the server to process said remote method in response to a processing request therefor, and enabling the server to provide said stub code in response to a retrieval request from said stub code retriever.

15. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 14 in which said server provides a separate address space for processing said remote method from an address space provided by said execution environment.

16. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 15 in which the address space provided by said server and the address space provided by said execution environment are provided by separate computers.

17. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 14, further including the step of [comprising a remote server identification step for] providing a server identification for identifying said server.

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18. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 17 further including the step of [a remote method reference detection step for] detecting whether a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment, the remote method reference including a remote method server identifier, the remote method server identifier being used [during the remote method reference detection step] as the server identification when detecting whether the remote method reference has been received.

19. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading method as defined in claim 17 further including the step of [a remote method invocation control step for] providing a remote method invocation identification for controlling invocation of said remote method, the remote method invocation providing a remote method server identifier, the remote method server identifier being used [during the remote method reference detection step] as the server identification when controlling invocation of said remote method.

20. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading subsystem as defined in claim 17, the remote method invocation system further including a nameserver for providing a said server identification, said remote server identifier initiating communication with said nameserver to obtain the server identification for said remote method.

21. (Twice Amended) For use in connection with a remote method invocation system, a stub code retrieval and loading computer program product for controlling a computer to, in turn, control the retrieval and loading of stub code for a stub [for] of a remote method into

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an execution environment to facilitate invocation of the remote method by a program executing in said execution environment, the stub code retrieval computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having encoded thereon:

A. stub retriever code [devices] configured to enable said computer to initiate a retrieval of said stub code from a server associated with processing of said remote method, said stub code used to facilitate remote invocation of said remote method; and

B. stub loader code [devices] configured to enable said computer to, when said stub code is received, load said stub code into said execution environment, thereby to make the stub code available for use in said remote invocation of said remote method.

22. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 21 further including remote method reference detector code [devices] configured to enable said computer to detect whether a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment, the stub retriever code [devices] being configured to enable said computer to initiate retrieval of said stub code when the remote method reference detector code [devices] enable said computer to detect that a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment.

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23. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 21 further including remote method invocation control code [devices] configured to enable said computer to control invocation of said remote method, said stub retriever code [devices] being configured to enable said computer to initiate retrieval of said stub code when the remote method is invoked.

24. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 21, the remote method invocation system further including the server, the server being configured for processing said remote method in response to a processing request therefor, the server further configured to provide said stub code in response to a retrieval request from said computer.

25. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 24 in which said server is configured to provide a separate address space for processing said remote method from an address space provided by said execution environment.

26. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 25 in which the address space provided by said server and the address space provided by said execution environment are provided by separate computers.

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27. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 24, further comprising remote server identifier code [devices] configured to enable said computer to provide a server identification for identifying said server.

28. (Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 27 further including remote method reference detector code [devices] for enabling said computer to detect whether a remote method reference has been received in said execution environment, the remote method reference including a remote method server identifier, the remote server identifier code [devices] enabling said computer to use the remote method server identifier as the server identification.

29. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 27 further including remote method invocation control code [devices] configured to enable said computer to provide a remote method invocation identification for controlling invocation of said remote method, the remote method invocation providing a remote method server identifier, the remote server identifier code [devices] being configured to enable said computer to use the remote method server identifier as the server identification.

30. (Twice Amended) A stub code retrieval and loading computer program product as defined in claim 27, the remote method invocation system further including a nameserver configured to provide a said server identification, said remote server identifier code [devices]

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being configured to enable said computer to initiate communication with said nameserver to obtain the server identification for said remote method.

31. (Twice Amended) For use in connection with a remote method invocation system, a stub code retrieval and loading subsystem for controlling the retrieval and loading of stub code for a stub [for] of a remote method into an execution environment to facilitate invocation of the remote method by a program executing in said execution environment, the stub code retrieval subsystem comprising:

A. a computer; and

B. a control arrangement configured to control said computer, said control arrangement comprising:

i. a stub code retrieval module configured to control said computer to initiate a retrieval of said stub code from a server associated with processing of said remote method, said stub code used to facilitate remote invocation of said remote method; and

ii. a stub code loader module configured to control said computer to, when said stub code is received in response to said stub code retrieval module, load said stub code into said execution environment, thereby to make the stub code available for use in said remote invocation of said remote method.

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32. (Twice Amended) A control arrangement for use in connection with a computer to control the retrieval and loading of stub code for a stub [for] of a remote method into an execution environment to facilitate invocation of the remote method by a program executing in said execution environment, said control arrangement comprising:

i. a stub code retrieval module configured to control said computer to initiate a retrieval of said stub code from a server associated with processing of said remote method, said stub code used to facilitate remote invocation of said remote method; and

ii. a stub code loader module configured to control said computer to, when said stub code is received in response to said stub code retrieval module, load said stub code into said execution environment, thereby to make the stub code available for use in said remote invocation of said remote method.

33. (Twice Amended) A system for distributing code stored on a computer readable medium and executable by a computer, the code including a plurality of modules each configured to control the computer to facilitate the retrieval and loading of stub code for a stub [for] of a remote method into an execution environment to facilitate invocation of the remote method by a program executing in said execution environment, said system comprising:

i. a stub code retrieval module configured to control said computer to initiate a retrieval of said stub code from a server associated with processing of said

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